

# THE NOTICEBOARD

THE NEWSLETTER FOR ALL THE COMMUNITIES IN THE FERINTOSH AREA  
[www.ferintoshcc.co.uk](http://www.ferintoshcc.co.uk)



## CLEAN-UP DRIVE IN THE FERINTOSH AREA

Kitted out in Hi-Viz vests and tough gloves, and armed with litter-picks provided by Highland Council, our group of eleven cheerful volunteers set out recently to clean up roadside verges in parts of the Ferintosh area. No blade of grass was left uncovered as we scoured roadside verges in and around Culbokie, through the woods and parts of Corntown.

We expected to fill a few bags in two hours, but were absolutely staggered by the sheer volume of litter crammed into 14 bags: so much plastic, dozens of wine bottles and cans, sweet and chocolate wrappers in abundance, countless cigarette butts, broken glass, several discarded masks and more. There was also the grim discovery of fly tipping down at the parking area near the A9 junction (an abandoned Hotpoint electric cooker too heavy for us to uplift and several broken Hoover parts.)

Another dimension to our recent litter-pick was taking photos of all the items in plastic packaging. As part of a Plastic Protest campaign, #ReturntoOffender, we will be forwarding the photos in a bid to challenge companies responsible for unnecessary avoidable single-use packaging.

It was depressing to find such load of rubbish in our neck of the woods, and even more soul destroying to discover that within 24 hours of the litter-pick, a collection of beer cans, plastic bottles and wrappers littered most of the areas cleared the previous evening.

However, we're not going to let litter louts beat us and intend to organise more litter-picks in the future. If any individuals or families are interested to support us to keep the Ferintosh area at its best, please email Ferintosh Volunteer Steering Group at [volunteer\\_survey@btinternet.com](mailto:volunteer_survey@btinternet.com)



Some of the volunteers with litter collected on September 15<sup>th</sup>



Collected litter ready for uplift by Highland Council

Hello all,

I don't have a long editors note this month. Firstly, just to say that next months deadline is;

**DEADLINE: SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER!**

Secondly, could we all please keep an eye out for Floss. She is 11 months old and has been missing from School Croft since the beginning of September. She has a very distinctive fluffy tail. If anyone sees her could they call Emma on 07957 944 533.



Well that's all for this month. Next Issue I'm going to make it 'The Noticeboard Christmas Special Edition' (dare I say the 'C' word) Any info on Christmas events will be greatly appreciated! It will also be filled with many Christmas activities ideas.

Until then stay safe!

Eilidh  
(Editor)

## **FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**The next FCC meeting will be Monday 26th October @7pm ON ZOOM**

**If you would like to join please email: [ferintoshcc30@gmail.com](mailto:ferintoshcc30@gmail.com)**

## **CCT History Group report – August 2020**

Modern history in the making.

Whilst it has been interesting researching the past history of the village we mustn't lose sight of the fact that things happening now will be of interest to people in 20, 50 or 100 years' time.

We have recorded changes in the monthly indoor Community Market which has emerged as a very successful weekly market during Covid with traders, on their own initiative, operating from their vans. We have also recorded the current work at Findon hall to cater for people asking in the future "just when was the Findon hall re-roofed?" Unfortunately we have been unable to uncover any significant details of the demolishing of the original Findon Hall in the late 1960s/early 1970s and the building of the current Hall in 1975. We'd welcome any photographs that illustrate this very significant time in the life of the village.

We would also like to improve our records of village housing developments. We have recorded the history of Schoolcroft - but developments such as Mount Eagle Drive and Court, and Ferindonald have gone unrecorded and we would welcome any photos or information that exist. We will cover developments at Fowlers Croft and Glascairn as they unfold. All information will be included in the Social History section of the web site.

Also within the Social History section is information about the Culbokie Guided Walks that have taken place recently. These have been much enjoyed by those taking part and more can be arranged if there is demand.

## **Culbokie Community Market – outdoor stalls/vans**

**Saturday Markets will continue during October from 1000-1100** in the Car Park beside Culbokie Church Centre. There is a wide range of market traders who are continuing to supply the local community with local food produce and crafts. They are following the Scottish Gvt guidelines and most will take contactless card payments. Social distancing is being observed.

Fresh produce available includes fish, venison, pork, lamb, beef/bacon/burgers etc. vegetables and fruit, chocolate and cakes. Also available are craft products, wool, pottery plus face coverings and cleaning materials.

Look out for news on the Market on 21<sup>st</sup> November when we aim to have a Christmas theme.



## Facelift to Findon Hall

Most people in the village will be aware of the works going on to repair the roof of the village hall. The existing roof had become porous and the Committee has been fundraising for some time to finance the replacement of the roof. Our architect friends at Colin Armstrong Associates prepared drawings and Ramsay and Chalmers Engineers provided us with drawings and a bill of quantities to allow us to get prices for the work to be done and the committee set about applying for grant.

Finally, an offer of grant was received from the FCC Communities Foundation followed by a smaller amount from the Energy Savings Trust which allowed us to think that the vision of a warm and watertight hall might become a reality! Highland Council also gave us £4300 representing third party funding as required by FCC Communities Foundation which is a not-for-profit business that awards grants for the community projects through the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund.

We now realised we could afford to paint the hall as well which was going to make a huge difference to the building. ARK Estates had also gifted us a cycle shelter but this would need to be installed.

Work began as soon as lockdown lifted but we quickly realised that additional work was required. The window cills of the hall were crumbling and needed repair. The boiler room doors were rotten and so was much of the outer cladding of the boiler ducts - more money!

A further business grant was awarded due to COVID and it was decided that we would try to upgrade the existing toilets. Findon Hall has never had a proper toilet suitable for wheelchair access as there was no space within the existing toilets. That was disgraceful in this day and age but it had always been prohibitively expensive. However, when added at the same time as the new roof, it became more achievable. ARK Estates offered to pay for that extension to allow the work to be done at the same time as the roofing and with a huge effort from Colin Armstrong Associates, ARK,

Highland Council and IBI Joiners the relevant permissions were gained in record time. We now have a full disabled toilet with space for child changing and we were able to upgrade the existing toilets as well! Our contractors helped hugely with this. ANM Electrical donated lighting and Gavin MacDonald Flooring laid the new safety flooring free of charge.

Outside more work was required which we hadn't initially anticipated. A new path was required to come from the new fire exit. Travis Perkins donated slabs, concrete and sand for the path which was laid by Russell and Struan MacKenzie of Aardvark Plant at no cost to the hall and they also tidied the area in front of the newly installed cycle stand with some tar.

Back inside the hall, we had at one point looked at improving the Committee/Community Room by insulating it, repainting it and improving the door but we didn't think the finances would allow. We would really like to make better use of this room in future for book groups, reading groups, craft groups, etc but it was cold and dreary. We applied to Highland Council who gave us a further grant. This was matched in kind by our generous contractor, IBI Joiners who insulated and repainted the room and ANM Electrical who improved the lights and tidied the dangling cables. IBI Joiners also cleared some of the garden to the rear of the hall to make this a more usable space.

Many thanks to all of those contractors, organisations and individuals who contributed to the hall upgrade as it grew arms and legs!

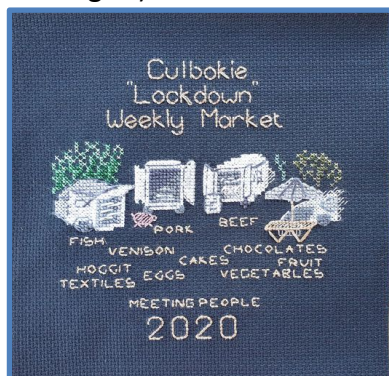
It would have been brilliant to have had an opening BBQ or party but that isn't going to be a possibility in the short-medium term but hopefully the hall will be able to open soon for some activities. We hope that the level of insulation together with the automated lights in the store and toilets will reduce costs for the hall and that together with the new cycle stand to encourage cycling, will improve the environmental footprint of our hall.



Before renovations (Left) After renovations (Right)

## Each patch tells a story

With autumn approaching, our quilt is growing and taking on a life of its own. There is still time for you or your group to contribute to Culbokie Lockdown Quilt by creating a patch decorated with something that represents your 'story'. Margaret, one of the stall holders at the outdoor market, cross-stitched a beautiful patch recently (below left). It depicts the first outdoor lockdown market that was held in March. Other patches vividly illustrate stories of how folk have been spending their lockdown days (see Sylvie's and Ann's colourful patches centre and right.)



You can choose any technique to decorate your patch: you can stitch it, sew it, knit it, paint it, draw it, glue it ... use any media. No special skills required. All we ask is that you use the correct size of patch which you will find explained in a simple set of instructions to be found:

- via the CCT website: [www.culbokiect.org/culbokielockdownquilt](http://www.culbokiect.org/culbokielockdownquilt)
- by email from Lesley or Angie at [event@culbokiect.org](mailto:event@culbokiect.org)
- at Culbokie Spar Shop

It would be helpful to know in advance if you intend to make a patch, so please keep in touch. You are also welcome to join our Facebook Group (Culbokie Lockdown Quilt) to chat, source bits and pieces, to ask questions or to get help on the creation of patches. Share your highs and lows and post pictures of your work in progress or your finished patch.

A group of local quilting experts have kindly agreed to create the finished quilt which will be displayed on the gable end wall at the recently refurbished Findon Hall, Culbokie.

I made this soup for Mabon (Autumn Equinox) It was one of the best soups I've had in ages, so I thought I would share the recipe with you all and include it in this months Noticeboard.

### Creamy Squash soup

#### Ingredients

- olive oil 2 tbsp
- onions 2, roughly chopped
- carrots 2, diced
- celery 2 sticks, diced
- garlic 2 cloves, roughly chopped
- butternut squash 1kg after peeling, cut into chunks
- chicken stock 1.2 litres
- double cream 150ml
- nutmeg for grating (optional)

#### Method

- **STEP 1**  
Heat the olive oil in a pan and fry the onions, carrots, celery and garlic until soft. Add the pumpkin and cook for 5 minutes, then tip in the stock and simmer until the pumpkin is soft and you can mash it with the back of a spoon. Add the cream and cook gently for 2-3 minutes. Put everything in a blender and whizz until smooth (or use a stick blender). Gently reheat to serve, grating over a little nutmeg, if you like.





Craig Wood near the Brahan Stone, by Julian Paren

# COLOURS OF THE BLACK ISLE 2021



These images were selected from entries into the CCT 2020 Black Isle Photographic Competition based on a theme of 'Colours of the Black Isle'. Entries for next year's competition will be open in the Spring 2021.

Our thanks to all those who entered the competition, and to local organisations and individuals who have kindly sponsored each calendar month.

## Colours of the Black Isle Calendars

Stunning photographs from this year's 'Colours of the Black Isle' Photo Competition have been used to create two 2021 Black Isle Calendars. They will be available from mid-October and come in two styles. The perfect present for distant family and friends, or for your own use, the wall hanging calendar is priced at £10 and the desk calendar at £8. A different image features on each page.

You can reserve one or more by emailing Culbokie Community Trust at [event@culbokiect.org](mailto:event@culbokiect.org) or look out for them on sale at the weekly Saturday Outdoor Markets, the Spar Shop in Culbokie and other outlets to be confirmed soon. Further details will be posted on the both Culbokie Community Trust website and Facebook Page in the coming weeks.



Black Isle Yellow by Alastair Cochrane

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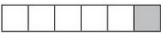
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# QUIZZES AND ANSWERS


## AUTUMN WORD SCRAMBLE


Uns shaded boxes to form a new word that answers the clue.


ULQIT 


LAVEES 


BEEESTRMP 

SVRTAEH 

TECTHUNS 

AUMUTN 

ATOLFLOB 

Q. What do you get when you drop a pumpkin?  


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### PRE HALLOWEEN IDEA

HERES A BRILLIANT IDEA THAT WAS ON FACEBOOK! AS WE ARE UNLIKELY TO BE ABLE TO GO OUT GUISING THIS YEAR, WHY NOT DO THIS INSTEAD! PAINT, DRAW ETC A PUMPKIN AND PUT IT IN YOUR WINDOW. THE KIDS CAN THEN GO AND SEARCH FOR THE PUMPKINS! YOU COULD EVEN GIVE THEM A SWEET FOR EACH PUMPKIN THEY SPOT AS THEY WONT GET ANY FROM TRICK OR TREATING THIS YEAR!

### ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH QUIZZ

Soutors, Chanonry Point, Fortrose, Osprey, Terry Burns, Hector "The Hero" MacDonald, Eathie, Kirk Micheal, Ord Hill, Dick McWhihavadun, Ferintosh, Skeleton/ Rosemarkie Man, Fyrish, Hugh Miller , Groam House Museum, Charlie Phillips , Scots Pine, Dreich, The Brahn Seer , The Culbokie Canteen, The Cromarty Bridge, Cullicudden

## The Noticeboard Quiz

- Where the market cross fell?
- Where the Fairies live?
- This battle could be heard from Cullicudden.
- Children collect them and used to have battle tournaments with them.
- Farm above Munloch Bay
- Rosemarkie Loch
- Which Monday of the month are FCC meetings held?
- Most common deer on the Black Isle?
- A place where Mountain Bikers go ?
- Highest point on the Black Isle?
- They return in Autumn and leave in Spring ?
- Who was the guest speaker at the last Culbokie Community Trust Fundraisers?
- A castle with a colour?
- A place where a viking battle is said to have taken place?
- A place to eat in Culbokie?
- Which area within FCC has a monument connected with Dingwall?
- What type of fish recently washed up on the beach at Chanonry?
- A local tavern that recently had an unusual visitor?
- The place called The Haunted Nook?
- A ruin in the town?

## Sunday 25th October

### CLOCKS GO BACK



During lockdown we all put rainbows in our windows, due to the remembrance parades being cancelled why dont we all colour a poppy picture in, and put them in our window, LEST WE FORGET



## CULBOKIE CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Our Sunday morning services continue to be live-streamed from the manse at 11am on [www.cruparish.online.church](http://www.cruparish.online.church) and via facebook (and available on Youtube afterwards). In addition, from September the Culbokie Church Centre, and our sister church in Cromarty, have been open for folk to watch the service there. The Covid-19 regulations require church goers provide their name and contact details in the NHS Scotland Test & Protect record book, follow the one-way system in the church, wear masks and sit 2 metres apart. Hand sanitiser is available on the way in and out of the building. Like many other aspects of life at the moment it does feel decidedly strange compared to pre-Covid days, but it's great to see other people and feel part of an actual rather than virtual congregation again. These blended arrangements will be reviewed at the end of October, and any changes will be posted on the [www.culbokiechurchcentre.org](http://www.culbokiechurchcentre.org) website and facebook.

We've been holding mid-week bible studies via Zoom, led by Rev. Mike Rattenbury, with the next session starting on Wednesday 14 October. This platform has worked very well for these meetings, enabling us join with folk in Cromarty from the comforts of our own home – especially welcome as winter approaches.

The online focus of our church activities over the past six months have been creatively captured in Andrea Rodway's piece for the Culbokie Lockdown Quilt. A photo doesn't do justice to her fine lacemaking skills.



Despite not being able to hold the usual Macmillan coffee morning event at the Culbokie Church Centre in September, a magnificent sum of £680 was raised through people organising their own small coffee mornings at home and from donations.

With autumn our attention turns to Blythswood's Shoebox Appeal <https://blythswood.org/shoeboxappeal/>. The shoeboxes, filled with toiletries, items of clothing and a few toys, bring such joy and hope to children and adults in Eastern Europe that face difficulties through poverty, illness, disability or other disadvantages. The drop off points for filled shoeboxes has yet to be announced, though it's never too soon to start gathering items. If you can't find an empty shoebox then use a drawstring bag (not plastic) maximum size 500mm x 300mm.

For further information about the Culbokie Church Centre activities please contact Margaret Kinsman (Session Clerk) on 877631 or Rev. Terry Burns on 877452.



## FCC CHAIR REPORT

Am I the only one who felt September went by in a flash? A definite “blink and you’ll miss it” month. One of the biggest challenges for me, since the introduction of a monthly Noticeboard, is having to produce a Chair report each month. However, despite the speed with which September went, as you can see from this month’s content, there’s been a lot going on.

Congratulations have to go the Findon Hall committee and the funders and contractors responsible for the newly refurbished Hall. It looks fantastic and once halls can safely reopen, will be a real community asset.

The Ferintosh Volunteers, a sub-group of FCC, kicked things off with a Litter Pick, where a large amount of rubbish was collected from various parts of the FCC area. It was a great effort from the volunteers who turned out. It was disappointing to see, only a few days later, that rubbish was accumulating once more. It’s safe to say, that ‘we’ are responsible for litter being dropped in our area. We cannot place the blame with tourists, as so few of them travel through our area. As a community, we excel at looking out for one another. Now we need to do the same for our environment. Let’s take ownership of where we live. We should all make an effort not to drop litter, and if we see litter in the street outside our houses, let’s start picking it up instead of leaving it for someone else to collect. Many thanks to the volunteers.

For some years, FCC, led by Bruce, have explored the possibilities of a form of community transport for the our area. Bruce has put a huge amount of time and effort into this project and I’m delighted to say we have now moved into a phase of community consultation as the possibility of community transport becomes more real. Many thanks to those of you who responded to the first consultation which provided such clear support that the partners in the project are now happy to see this project go forward. There will soon be a more detailed consultation with you all from which, the more responses we receive, the better we can tailor the service to your travel needs whilst minimising the compromises.

With regards to Covid-19, it would appear that we are going to remain in Phase 3 for sometime to come. With the rise of cases in the Highlands, some of you may be feeling particularly vulnerable and worried about going out and about. Please remember our volunteers are still available. If you need help with shopping, collecting prescriptions or just a friendly call, please let us know. You can call: 01349 877127 or email: [ferintosh.volunteers@btinternet.com](mailto:ferintosh.volunteers@btinternet.com) and we will do our best to assist you.

Our monthly meetings will continue on Zoom for the foreseeable future. Residents are always welcome. We’re missing seeing our regulars who would turn out for the monthly meetings, but, it’s been really nice getting to know those of you have been joining us online. Our October meeting will be held on Monday 26th October @ 7pm and our November meeting will be held on Monday 23rd November @ 7pm. All being well, there will be no December meeting and we’ll be enjoying a well earned rest.